

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 4162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, KS, UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA: MALI POSITION

REF: STATE 262590

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO NOVEMBER 7 AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL TO LODGE FORMAL PROTEST AGAINST OFFENSIVE SPEECH OCTOBER 28 BY MALIAN AMBASSADOR KANTE BEFORE FIRST COMMITTEE AT UN. DCM ACCOMPANIED. DIRGEN ALIDOU TOURE TOOK NOTES.

2. AMB BEGAN BY STATING TO CISSOKHO THAT HE, AMB, HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LODGE AN OFFICIAL PROTEST REGARDING KANTE'S SPEECH; THAT IT REPRESENTED A HOSTILE ATTITUDE BY THE GOM TOWARD THE U.S.; AND THAT PHRASES WHICH DESCRIBED THE U.S. AS IMPERIALIST, AS AN AGGRESSOR AND AS INTERESTED IN COLONIAL RECONQUEST WERE WRONG AND INSULTING. AMBASSADOR READ EXAMPLES FROM TEXT OF KANTE'S SPEECH, SPECIFICALLY SECTION BEGINNING WITH "THE DELIBERATE VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS OF MOSCOW, CAIRO, ETC." WHICH STATEMENTS, HE SAID WE CATEGORICALLY
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REJECTED; THE ASSERTION THAT SYNGMAN RHEE INVADED

NORTH KOREA, WHICH HE SAID, WAS CONTRARY TO HISTORICAL FACT, AND THE FINAL PARAGRAPH REGARDING THE "COLONIAL STATUS" OF SOUTH KOREA BY VIRTUE OF THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOUTH KOREA IS RECOGNIZED BY A GREAT NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AS SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT AND THAT U.S. FORCES ARE THERE AT THE REQUEST OF AND UNDER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ROK. AMB CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THIS ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY ON THE PART OF THE GOM TOWARD THE U.S. AND THAT WE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT IT IN FACT REPRESENTED THE TRUE ATTITUDE OF THE GOM. IT IS IMPORTANT, SAID AMB, THAT THE GOM UNDERSTAND THAT STATEMENTS SUCH AS KANTE'S SPEECH CANNOT HELP BUT AFFECT BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT THE DAY AFTER AMB. KANTE PRESENTED HIS HOSTILE SPEECH AT UN, THE AMB HIMSELF AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS KARIM DEMEBELE CALLED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST INCREASED U.S. AID FOR ROAD BUILDING PROJECTS. U.S. AID, SAID AMB, IS BASICALLY HUMANITARIAN BUT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO POINT OUT THAT KOREA WAS A VITAL ISSUE TO THE U.S. - AS WAS PUERTO RICO AND OTHERS - AND THAT POSITIONS TAKEN BY OTHER COUNTRIES ON THESE MAJOR ISSUES COULD NOT FAIL TO INFLUENCE U.S. DECISIONS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THOSE COUNTRIES.

3. CISSOKHO REPLIED THAT HE RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR'S PROTEST ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT. REGARDING KANTE'S SPEECH, CISSOKHO SAID THAT HE HAD STUDIED THE SPEECH, "HAVING RECEIVED IT FROM YOU", AND THAT IT WAS IN A CERTAIN MANNER, "RETROSPECTIVE". HE SAID THAT IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY TO HAVE GONE INTO SO MUCH HISTORICAL DETAIL. SINCE INDEPENDENCE, HOWEVER, MALI HAD TAKEN POSITIONS BASED ON PRINCIPLE, I.E. PERMANENT HOSTILITY TOWARD THREATS TO WORLD PEACE. THIS WAS PURPOSE OF KANTE'S SPEECH. MALI REMAINED FAITHFUL TO PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY FOR ALL PEOPLE

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AND THEIR RIGHT TO DECIDE THE FORM OF THEIR DEVOLUTION FREE FROM EXTERNAL FORCES. MALI WAS NON-ALIGNED AND OPPOSED FOREIGN BASES ANYWHERE, WHATEVER THEIR RATIONALE, AND KANTE'S SPEECH HAD BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PRINCIPLES.

4. CISSOKHO ADDED SOME IRRELEVANT POINTS ABOUT AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND ABSENCE OF

FOREIGN BASES IN AMERICA TODAY.

5. IN CLOSING, CISSOKHO SAID FORCEFULLY THAT MALI WAS EAGER FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND WANTED TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AREAS OF COOPERATION (READ AID). THE U.S. STOOD FIRST AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH MALI WANTED GOOD RELATIONS, HE SAID.

6. CISSOKHO ENDED BY SAYING HE WOULD TRANSMIT AMBASSADOR'S PROTEST TO THE PRESIDENT, THAT WHILE MALI'S POSITION ON KOREAN ITEM WAS NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE, HE AGREED THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITHOUT BEING OFFENSIVE TO THE U.S.

7. COMMENT: CISSOKHO ADMITTED THAT KANTE'S SPEECH HAD BEEN OFFENSIVE. TONE OF MEETING WAS SOMBER AND CISSOKHO SHOWED CONCERN.

8. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY PASSED FRENCH TEXT OF KANTE'S SPEECH (THROUGH ABDOULAYE TOURE) INFORMALLY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH MORE OBNOXIOUS PASSAGES UNDERLINED IN RED.

9. THIS WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE STIFFEST PROTEST WE HAVE YET MADE TO GOM, AND ALSO THE FIRST TIME THAT WE HAVE ALLUDED TO A CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR ILL-CONCEIVED STATEMENTS IN UN AND OUR AID PROJECTS. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT MESSAGE GOT THROUGH, AND HOPEFULLY, WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT, AT LEAST IN DIRECTION OF ASSURING THAT STATEMENTS IN UN IN FACT REPRESENT WHAT GOM WANTS TO SAY.
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